

RECOGNIZING THE BUILDING EFFORTS OF "HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS" IN WARREN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the "Homes for Our Troops" program in Warren County, Virginia, and bring to the attention of our colleagues a program at work throughout the country building houses for injured veterans returning home from serving our country.

Homes for Our Troops is a national nonprofit, non-partisan organization founded in 2004 and committed to helping those who have selflessly given to our country and have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries since September 11, 2001. They feel a duty and honor to assist severely injured servicemen and women and their immediate families by raising donations of money, building materials and professional labor, and to coordinate the process of building a home that provides maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently.

John Gonsalves, a construction supervisor, started the organization in 2004 after watching a news report of a severely injured servicemember who had returned from Iraq. He realized the need for special housing projects for injured service members. He focused on constructing customized homes with specially adapted and barrier-free features that allow servicemembers to regain some of their independence and mobility.

In its first 2 years, Homes for Our Troops built a handful of homes as it worked to spread the word about its mission. Since then, the organization has grown into a successful national nonprofit organization that has built and donated more than 50 specially adapted homes to severely injured veterans. It has approximately 30 homes in various stages of construction across the United States on a continuous basis. All the services that this organization provides are at no cost to the recipient.

Most recently, volunteers helped to complete a home for my constituent, Army SSG Arthur "Bunky" Woods, who was injured by a sniper's bullet during a tour in Iraq. The Build Brigade, of more than 50 volunteers from the community constructed the frame of Bunky's house in just three days, a project which usually takes several weeks. His new home on Waterhouse Lane in Warren County, Virginia, will be ready by the end of the summer. The home will have controls and special features specifically tailored to Bunky's needs, allowing him to perform everyday actions such as opening doors.

This project would not be possible without the help of Martha Buracker, who is the owner of the Buracker Construction Company in Bentonville. She generously volunteered to be the general contractor for Bunky's home, donating her time and her company's resources. Martha's selfless actions should be an example to all to get involved with this truly remarkable program.

There are hundreds of soldiers who will be needing our help across the country and more coming home each day with life-altering dis-

abilities and injuries sustained while fighting for our freedom. It does not matter what state or which branch of the military these soldiers are from, these are our American heroes, and we all need to unite, support and help them.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this important program so disabled servicemembers can experience the gift of independence.

HONORING DR. DARRON T. SMITH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the accomplishments of many start with the works and words of one; and

Whereas, Dr. Darron T. Smith has given of himself for many years in the field of education as a student, professor, editor and lecturer; and

Whereas, upon obtaining his doctorate degree with emphasis in the Sociology of Race, Education, Theory, Social Problems, Race & Ethnic Minority Relations; and

Whereas, Dr. Darron T. Smith is serving our country honorably as one of few African American men who have decided to enter into the field of education as a Ph.D., to teach our future and enhance our present while never forgetting our past. Dr. Smith is sharing his time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Dr. Darron T. Smith on his achievement of earning his Ph.D., from the University of Utah, May 7, 2010, and to congratulate him as he provides a much needed service to educate and enlighten our future for the betterment of our great nation;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim May 15, 2010, as Dr. Darron T. Smith Day in the 4th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), celebrated on May 19, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

For seventy years, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, a non-partisan organization, has sought to raise awareness of the interests and concerns of Ukrainian Americans and the people of the Ukraine. The UCCA has worked on many initiatives, including a law adopted by Congress in 1948 which allowed more than 110,000 Ukrainians to be admitted into the United States. The UCCA has worked

on the establishment of Ukrainian language radio programs with Voice of America and Radio Free Liberty. The UCCA also successfully lobbied both the House of Representatives and Senate to construct a monument in honor of Taras Shevchenko, the bard of Ukraine, which was unveiled by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1946.

Throughout the Cold War, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America spoke out against human rights violations and advocated for the liberation of Ukrainian political prisoners in the former USSR. The grassroots efforts of the UCCA continue to focus on encouraging members of Congress to support the process of democratic development in the Ukraine and to promote the needs and concerns of Ukrainian Americans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of the members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America as they celebrate their 70th anniversary. For seven decades they have brought the issues and concerns of Ukrainian Americans to the forefront of American government and society. As United States citizens whose origins span the globe, we must work to promote bonds of friendship, support, and goodwill here at home and in the nations of our origin.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express strong support for H. Res. 1316—Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I applaud the leadership and continued efforts of Chairman MIKE HONDA, as well as my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for bringing this Resolution before us today.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was established in 1977 by the efforts of Representatives Norman Mineta and Frank Horton, and Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga who introduced resolutions asking for a Presidential declaration that the first 10 days of May honor the rich history and contributions of our nation's Asian Pacific Americans. In 1992 Congress expanded the commemoration to a month, in order to fully recognize the impact that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, AAPIs, have on this great Nation.

From the early 1800s to today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a critical role in the development of this country. This year's theme: "Lighting the Past, Present and Future," is fitting as the world's attention turned to the United States to see the historic inauguration of President Barack Hussein Obama. President Obama's diversity reflects the richness and strength of our nation.

We must reaffirm our commitment to the promise of a future for all Americans by eradicating racial and ethnic health disparities, enacting comprehensive immigration reform, providing educational opportunities for the underserved and creating jobs. I am proud that we ensured full equity for the Filipino veterans who proudly served under the American flag